Victimisation of Newspaper Industry by STC

3179. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express of May 29, 1993 captioned "Newspaper Industry victim of STC inefficiency: INS Chief";

(b) if so, what are the problems faced by the newspaper industry, small and big, allegedly attributable to STC inefficiency highlighted in the report of the Committed on Public Undertaking of the Parliament referred to therein; and

(c) what steps have been taken to mitigate the hardships faced by the newspapers in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Import of newsprint was decanalised w.e.f. 1st April, 1992. In the present decanalised regime, actual users are allowed to import newsprint directly by themselves or through newsprint handling agents against Certificates of Entitlement issued by the Registrar of News-papers for India. During 1992-93, STC arranged for import of 19.677 MTs of newsprint worth Rs. 26.60 crores as handling agent on behalf of actual users as per the delivery schedules indicated by the users. Wherever the news-papers, particularly small and medium categories, could not arrange payment and take delivery direct from the vessels, STC provided them warehousing facilities for lifting their total imported quantities within 60 days from the date of arrivals. In spite of extending warehousing facilities etc, a number of actual users did not take delivery of the total quantities imported on their behalf and stored in the STC's warehouses.

It is, therefore, not correct to state that the actual users, who had routed their import through STC, were deprived of their right to imported newsprint.

The Committee on Public Undertaking has not, in its report, highlighted any problem faced by the newspaper industry allegedly attributable to STC inefficiency in the post decanalisation period.

Exports and Imports During 1992-93

3180. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were India's total exports and imports during the period April, 1992 to March, 1993 in terms of rupees and US dollars;

(b) what was the trade gap again in rupees and US dollars;

(c) what are the comparable figures for the year 1990;

(d) what were the exports and imports in both the years in US dollars to and from the General Currency Area;

(e) whether there is a decline in exports to the General Currency Area; and

(f) if so, the products and markets which have registered this decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The value of total exports, imports and trade deficit during the period April, 92 to March, 93 in terms of rupees and US dollars are as under:

	In Rs. Crores	In US$ Million
Exports . .	53350.54	18420.49
Import . .	62922.80	21725.54
Trade deficit .	9572.26	3305.05

Note : Figures are provisional.

(c) India's trade data are compiled on financial year basis. The comparable figures for 1990-91 are given below:

	In Rs. Crores	In US$ Million
Exports . .	32553.34	18142.84
Imports . .	43192.86	24072.53
Trade deficit .	10639.52	5929.69

(d) Exports to former General Currency Area countries and imports therefrom in both the years, are as follows:

	In US$ Million	
	1990-91	1992-93 (P)
Export . .	14983	17750
Import . .	22475	21354

P: Provisional

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.